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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 77 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, ELLIS, QUIGLEY, KIM, KILLION, DUSH,  
SONNEY, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, BAKER, VEREB, MUSTIO, THOMAS,  
READSHAW, MILLARD, KINSEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER, COHEN, HEFFLEY,  
LONGIETTI, PICKETT, MACKENZIE, HENNESSEY, BISHOP, V. BROWN,  
WHEELAND, O'NEILL, SCHWEYER, BENNINGHOFF, MARSHALL,  
YOUNGBLOOD, KIRKLAND, DRISCOLL, STURLA, BROWNLEE, GINGRICH,  
SCHLOSSBERG, MATZIE, CALTAGIRONE, HELM, FARINA, FRANKEL,  
WHEATLEY, ROSS, BARRAR, PETRI, CUTLER, KAUFFMAN, CONKLIN,  
MARSICO, GOODMAN, RAPP, KAVULICH, C. PARKER, ACOSTA, WATSON  
AND GRELL, FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of March 2015 as "Intellectual  
2 Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An intellectual disability is a particular state of  
4 functioning that may be genetic, neurological or the result of a  
5 traumatic life event; and

6 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are characterized by  
7 limitation in intelligence and adaptive skills; and

8 WHEREAS, Intellectual disabilities are not mental illness;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, There are no known medical, social or educational  
11 interventions that can cure intellectual disabilities, although  
12 each service can and does dramatically improve skills and  
13 adaptive functioning; and

1       WHEREAS, Individuals with intellectual disabilities deserve  
2 and require lifelong support and services; and

3       WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court, in its Olmstead  
4 decision, affirmed the right of individuals with disabilities,  
5 including intellectual disabilities and other developmental  
6 disabilities, to receive community-based services as an  
7 alternative to institutional care; and

8       WHEREAS, Almost 55,230 Pennsylvanians with intellectual  
9 disabilities received services and support in fiscal year 2013-  
10 2014; and

11       WHEREAS, More than 37,800 children, including significant  
12 numbers of children who have intellectual disabilities, received  
13 early intervention services in fiscal year 2013-2014, and an  
14 additional 14,801 individuals with intellectual disabilities  
15 continue to wait for services; and

16       WHEREAS, These services and supports ensure that all  
17 residents of this Commonwealth who have intellectual  
18 disabilities have the opportunity to participate in the range of  
19 life experiences we all enjoy in our homes and communities, such  
20 as inclusion in schools, neighborhoods, businesses and places of  
21 worship; and

22       WHEREAS, Public awareness and education improve the  
23 community's understanding of intellectual disabilities and the  
24 services and support needed to meet the specific needs and  
25 abilities of people with intellectual disabilities; therefore be  
26 it

27       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
28 month of March 2015 as "Intellectual Disabilities Awareness  
29 Month" in Pennsylvania and acknowledge the important role of  
30 public awareness and education in improving the lives of

1 individuals with intellectual disabilities; and be it further  
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives express  
3 appreciation to all Pennsylvanians who conduct special outreach,  
4 education and services during the month of March and urge the  
5 residents of this Commonwealth to give year-round support to  
6 efforts which enable people with intellectual disabilities to  
7 live full and productive lives in our communities.